

Response to the Office Action

Claims 1-22 are pending in the application. The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 11 as being anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), allowed claims 20-22, and indicated that claims 2-10 and 12-19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent format.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 9 and claim 11 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 19. Accordingly, claims 9 and 19 have been canceled. In light of these amendments, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

In addition, claim 10 has been amended to correct antecedent basis due to the cancellation of claim 9 and claim 22 has been amended to correct a punctuation error. No new matter has been added.

Applicant believes claims 1-8, 10-18, and 20-22 are in condition for allowance. Early notification to that effect is solicited. If the Examiner has any questions or identifies any issues that can be resolved over the telephone, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's representative at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: January 24, 2005



Lisa M. Schoedel
Reg. No. 53,564
McDonnell Boehnen Hulbert & Berghoff LLP
300 South Wacker Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60606-6709
312 935 2362
schoedel@mbhb.com